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## Letter dated 21 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement by the Presidency of the European Union on the execution of death sentences in the Sudan issued on 15 January 2003 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Adamantios Th. **Vassilakis**
Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations

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## Annex to the letter dated 21 January 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Brussels, 15 January 2003

## Statement on the execution of death sentences in the Sudan issued on 15 January 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union

The European Union strongly condemns the executions of the three persons recently sentenced to death in the Sudan. The European Union points to its statement of 10 January 2003 and its repeated attempts to undertake demarches with the Government of the Sudan.

The European Union reiterates its categorical opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances and calls on the Government of the Sudan to refrain from further executions and other forms of cruel or inhuman punishment. It also stresses that such actions go against the benchmarks applied in the framework of the ongoing dialogue between the European Union and the Government of the Sudan.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.